

# Sectional Meetings Consider Matters of Vital Interest to Workers

## HOME BEST PLACE FOR DEPENDENT CHILD AFTER ALL

Several Speakers Favor Placing-Out System, Though Commending Asylums; Want Outdoor Games.

That home, after all, is the best place for a child, and that if a child cannot be kept at its own home, it should be placed, if possible, in some other, several speakers agreed, in discussing the subject of dependent children at the sectional meetings of the Division on Children yesterday morning in the hall of the Mechanics' Institute. The topic of the day related to children in institutions, or to the dependent class, as in direct distinction to the juvenile, considered on the previous day in connection with the juvenile court.

**The Dependent Child.**  
The discussion was led by Mrs. Falconer, of Philadelphia, who considered the subject of children in institutions from the point of view of their probable preparation to be future citizens and parents. Following this, the discussion of the care of the dependent child was broad and general, many active workers and heads of institutions in all parts of the country taking part. Miss Curtis, of Boston, presided, limiting the time of the speakers and holding attention to the subject in hand.

It is estimated that there are in this country about 1,200 recognized institutions for the care of dependent children, and that there is one dependent child to every 100 normal children. The dependent class includes orphans, part orphans, neglected and abandoned children, children taken from improper parents or environment, cripples, invalids, mental defectives and others whose lives vary from that of the normal, healthy child, living in the home of its own, and surrounded by the love and care of its family.

**The Orphan Asylum.**  
The work of the orphan asylum was by no means undervalued, and these institutions were held to be necessary parts of a system of juvenile care and reform. The discussion, however, and the evident preponderance of opinion was in favor of the placing-out system, always emphasizing the importance of after care and supervision of the child after its removal from the institution. Every American child was declared to be entitled to a home and to deserve the love and surroundings of a home as a right. These surroundings, the average orphan, and the child, are denied. The discussion, however, and the evident preponderance of opinion was in favor of the placing-out system, always emphasizing the importance of after care and supervision of the child after its removal from the institution. Every American child was declared to be entitled to a home and to deserve the love and surroundings of a home as a right. These surroundings, the average orphan, and the child, are denied.

In twenty-seven States fairly well organized, housing and care of dependent children is reported for placing-out work, all of them having a more or less effective system of after-inspection. In the argument for the care of the dependent child by private institutions and societies it was shown that the State was forced to provide for the dependent child, because of the influence of a nuisance and a law-breaker, and that the rights of the dependent girls and boys were in danger of being overlooked.

Some question was raised as to whether the care for a child in an institution would or would not make the child a nuisance, and the influence of the environment, and unwilling to return, should its parents be able later on to keep it a point on which there was an evident conflict of opinion, different cases showing different results.

**Training of the Boy.**  
One of the more carefully prepared papers of the day's session was read by Mr. Crawford Jackson on "The Training of a Boy for Citizenship." Mr. Jackson is the general secretary of the Juvenile Protective Association, with headquarters in New York City. He is present working out a plan for taking boys out of reformatories and institutions and giving them outdoor life on a large farm. He showed a close knowledge of boy life, and workers with boys in the audience, recognizing his descriptions, could almost see individual boys from his illustrative cases. He gave the following description of the emotional nature of a boy, as showing his versatility: "He repents like a convicted criminal; weeps like a true prophet, pleads like an apostle, and prays like a saint. And the greatest marvel about a boy is that he can go all this round in one day. He will fight like a young tiger on the playground in the morning, be his father's prospective hero at noon and his mother's little angel at night."

The child was said to learn in three ways, through imitation, interest and effort, and only in these three ways could its mind be properly developed. The cramming process in education was roundly condemned, the writer holding that over-crammed children really knew nothing, having a smattering of everything. The paper was received with continued applause.

**The Element of Play.**

Mr. Charles W. Birtwell, of Boston, general secretary of the Boston Children's Aid Society, closed the discussion with a brief address, in which, though agreeing with all that had been said to the home placing-out system, he said it is still true that thousands of boys and girls raised in institutions have grown up to become useful and respected citizens. Referring to the detailed working of children's institutions, he strongly advocated the element of play as most essential in the development of the child, asking for a return to the old-fashioned outdoor games, which enlisted the imagination and activities, in preference to the modern gymnasium, with its formal exercises.



MISS HARRIET FULMER, Superintendent of Visiting Nurses' Association, of Chicago, prominent among speakers yesterday.

## RALLY TO DEFENSE OF OLD-AGE PENSION PLAN

Attack by Insurance Statistician Arouses Mayor of Boston and Other Prominent Delegates—Some Live Discussion at Section on Statistics.

Without being here in person to defend his position, Frederick L. Hoffman, statistician of the Prudential Life Insurance Company, attacked the system of old-age pensions in a paper presented to the Section on Statistics of the National Conference yesterday. Being unable to attend, Mr. Hoffman sent his address, which was read by Chairman John Koren, expert special agent of the United States Census Bureau. His statement that the bounty removes many incentives for thrift was assailed on all sides. Mayor Hibbard, of Boston, and others taking particular exception to that opinion.

Mr. Hoffman was rather liberal in the monthly allowances, naming \$5 a week as the average. He showed that the sum paid to all persons in the United States over sixty years of age would involve an expenditure of \$494,000,000 annually. Mr. Rosewell Page, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from Hanover county, said the board of supervisors had found that its appropriation to aged men and women, supplemented by supplies from merchants and others, was insignificant, not being more than \$5 a month, but it enabled these people to maintain themselves outside the almshouse.

**Attitude Is Unwise.**  
Holding that agitation of the pension system is unwise, Mr. Hoffman discussed the subject of old age as the cause of poverty, saying that it is a world-wide condition and requires attention at the hands of the charity workers. In the discussion it was held that the pension system, which confronts society, is continued, "is whether what is to be done for the aged poor should rest on a sound economic basis, rather than that the circumstances should be governed by irrational and prevalent sentimentality." The subject of State pensions in old age is attracting a considerable amount of attention in the United States, and a special commission has been appointed in Massachusetts to examine into the practicability of that State. In Wisconsin, Illinois, Florida and other States attention is being given to the subject of State insurance upon a voluntary and compulsory basis. In England the investigations and reports of the most radical economists in the world have led to the adoption of a universal old-age pensions, beginning with the age of sixty-five, for an amount of \$1.20 a week.

**Poverty Due to Squandering.**  
Discussing the technical problems of the systems in Germany and Austria, and the system in England, Mr. Hoffman held that the contributing pension scheme is the only working solution, adding that measures and means by which the State system can be avoided would be more preferable. He said that much more could be done if the working people were educated in effective methods of thrift.

"I hold," he said, "that the agitation for State pensions in the United States is ill-advised in that the problem of poverty in old age, as generally met with, is primarily the result of ill-apportioned, or ill-applied, savings, and not of ill-earned savings, and what is needed most is rational education in household economy. The agitation for old-age pensions in truth and in fact has not come from those who would be the beneficiaries under the proposed measures or plans, but rather from those who feel strongly, but reason badly, upon the facts of the case."

The chief safeguard against poverty and dependence in old age is a thoroughly sound and well-conducted family life, such as prevails in the preponderating majority of American homes. In this truly lies the strength of the people, and not in the money in the banks, nor for that matter, in policies of insurance, or in contracts of annuities. All these are means to an end, but at the root of the problem of poverty and old age lies the proper conception of individual responsibility, and this, no doubt, would be weakened and partly destroyed by reliance upon State support in old age.

**Mayor Hibbard for Old Men.**  
With the statement that he had come here to learn, Mayor George A. Hibbard, of Boston, attacked the assertion of Mr. Hoffman that old-age pensions destroy the incentive for thrift among working people. "I am disappointed with Mr. Hoffman's paper," said Mayor Hibbard. "My eight years' experience as postmaster convinces me that I can do more for the old-age pensioners, especially for government employees, which would mean the saving of money. About the question of city employees I am not so well informed. Before leaving Boston I directed that a list of old employees be secured. Today my private secretary telegraphed me that there were 700 men working for the city who are more than sixty years old. This whole question involves a serious problem. How is the day laborer going to save money for his declining years when the cost of living is so great and wages are at the minimum?"

"You must do one of three things—



MAYOR OF BOSTON AND HIS PARTY. Left to right: Miss Mary Boyle O'Reilly, Mr. Herbert S. Carruth, Miss Mary Mack, and Miss Adelaide Hibbard. Picture taken by Times-Dispatch staff photographer.

## CENTRAL BOARD FOR CONTROL OF FEDERAL JAILS

Indeterminate Sentence of Criminals Strongly Advocated in the Discussion. Prisoners Must Work.

Declaring in favor of a board of control for the management of Federal prisons, Chairman W. H. Whittaker, superintendent of the Indiana State Reformatory at Jeffersonville, led a discussion before the division on criminals yesterday morning in the hall of the House of Delegates, on the general topic, "Discipline and Employment of United States Prisoners."

"Legislation for the control, management and improvement of the United States government penitentiaries is slow and unwieldy," said Mr. Whittaker. "Under the present system this matter is in the hands of a committee of Congress, composed of men burdened with other affairs, men who have seldom, if ever, been in the prisons under their control, and who have, in many cases, but little practical knowledge of prison system, discipline or routine."

"Legislation by this system is necessarily slow. Many of the most needed reforms wait for years for the necessary authority of a busy Congress. The people who are in touch with conditions in United States prisons are seldom, if ever, consulted by the congressional committee. Personally I would much prefer a board of control for the management of all United States prisons—a board with broad powers both of inspection and management."

**Prisoners and Work.**  
Mrs. Foster, of Washington city, discussed government reformatories and the methods of inducing work, telling of a Western institution which has recently bought 1,000 acres of land and put its men to ditching and farming. She held that all able-bodied inmates of institutions should have employment, and declared that work is the salvation of the prisoner, and idleness the curse of the jail system. Continuing, she told of the system in one reformatory, where each inmate is put at a rock pile and fed according to the amount of rock he breaks. A lazy and indolent man is not forced to labor, but is fed only on the bare necessities of life, while a more industrious prisoner, who is willing to work, is kept in comfort. Mrs. Foster concluded:

"If only the world would learn to understand that economics and religion are one, that all real work for the betterment of man is that which all lovers of souls should be engaged in the results would come."

**Indeterminate Sentence.**  
In the discussion which followed, and in which a number of speakers took part, the indeterminate sentence

of prisoners was strongly advocated.

One of the speakers said: "I am opposed to the release of apparently unreformed prisoners merely because their term is up. Such people should not be turned loose on society. We don't take an insane man to the asylum and demand that they cure him in six months or a year, or any other definite time, and then turn him loose, whether that cure has been effected or not."

Mr. Wilson, of Washington, D. C., objected to the district jail system, because there was no employment, neither industrial nor educational work being provided. In the larger prisons the reason given is that many of the smaller county jails have but a few inmates, and cannot afford to keep up shops and places of employment for their men. Mr. Wilson said the time would soon come when the government would have a model penitentiary in Washington. Government prisoners from that city are now taken to other States for incarceration.

**Drowned in Early Morning.**

NORFOLK, Va., May 8.—A man by the name of Simmons, employed by the Chesapeake Dredging Company as a barge hand, slipped overboard in the harbor just before day this morning and was drowned. The body has not been recovered.

**Three Prominent Charity Workers**



MR. FRANK J. BRUNO, of Colorado Springs, Col.



HON. THOMAS M. MULRY, of New York, President.



DR. CHARLES GORST, of Mendon, Wis.

## MAY URGE CONGRESS TO CREATE HEALTH BOARD

Dr. Lindley Says Constitution Must Be Amended if Necessary—Bad Housing, Next to Drink, as Corrupting Influence.

"Before this conference adjourns I hope it will take suitable action and urge the United States government to establish a National Department of Health," said Dr. Walter Lindley, of Los Angeles, chairman of the Public Health Section, at its meeting yesterday. "I do not believe that it will require an amendment to the Constitution, but if it does, we ought to seek that. The country certainly needs this department. I do not agree with the theory that we must let the government move in an easy-going fashion, as some one suggested the other day. We want new things, even if it does stir up the country; we want to do justice to the suffering people of this country."

Dr. Lindley's statement followed an address by Dr. J. H. Stolper, of Oklahoma, in which he pointed out the fact that the United States is the only country without a systematic health organization.

**Miss Fulmer on Reform.**  
Though admitting that drunkenness leads the list of causes for the necessity of reform work, Miss Harriet Fulmer, superintendent of the Visiting Nurses' Association of Chicago, who discussed "Bad Houses and Social Reform," maintained that the housing conditions came next to the wholesale use of liquor as a corrupting influence.

"Two-thirds of the reform measures which are yearly talked over at the National Conference of Charities, bear upon bad housing conditions," she said. "Two-thirds of the delinquent children come from homes where bad and poor ventilation predominates; two-thirds of the physically ill children; one-third of the mentally deficient children; one-third of the shiftless mothers; two-thirds of the delinquent fathers, come from the same homes."

"Housing reform is not a local effort; it is a great national problem. It touches close to the practical solution of the great White Plague. It means moral, decent citizenship. Some excellent work has been done by the tenement house committee of New York."

There was a general discussion of the question of the care of the speakers, saying that the cities are building more than they clean, the idea, as expressed, being that the States must build cities without these low quarters.

**SET FIRE TO BUILDING.**  
Men Admit Having Done So to Show Their Services Were Needed.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
NORFOLK, Va., May 8.—Firemen C. S. Broughton, J. E. Sharp, Julius Storz, A. M. Hoffman, Edward Bryson and A. B. Thrall, of the Exposition Department, were to-day ordered held by Justice Backus for the Norfolk county grand jury on the charge of arson, it being charged that they set fire to the Phillips building.

It is declared that Sharp and Broughton have confessed to the crime and will be allowed to turn State's evidence in the forthcoming trial. It is declared that the fire was started because of the threat to cut down the fire fighting force at the grounds, the fire fighting to create the idea that the men were needed.

**HOSPITAL BOARD MEETS.**

Question of Epileptic Colony to Be Taken Up in June.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
WILLIAMSBURG, Va., May 8.—The General Board of Virginia Insane Hospitals and the special board for the Eastern State Hospital met here yesterday afternoon. After general routine business was finished the question of an epileptic colony was taken up, but postponed until a special meeting in June.

Leave was granted to Dr. O. C. Brunk to attend a meeting in Cincinnati of Superintendents of Asylums. After business was finished the board divided into four committees to inspect the buildings. The reports showed that all is in good condition.

**SUPPLOCK'S MEMORIAL DAY.**

Mr. Withers Makes a Captivating Address Wholly in Verse.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
SUFFOLK, Va., May 8.—Confederate Memorial Day was observed here this afternoon, all business being suspended after 1 o'clock in pursuance of Mayor Nord's proclamation. Here yesterday afternoon, after general routine business was finished the question of an epileptic colony was taken up, but postponed until a special meeting in June.

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**One New Charter.**

The State Corporation Commission has issued a charter to the North Branch Corporation, Norfolk.

John R. Bland, president; Francis Richardson, secretary and treasurer; Admiral Brinkley—all of Norfolk. Capital: \$1,000,000. Maximum, \$30,000,000. Minimum, \$20,000. Objects: Real estate business.

## WORK OF CARING FOR UNEMPLOYED IMPORTANT NOW

Organizations Have Been Forced to Let Down Bars During Past Few Months.

Before the Section on Needy Families, in the basement of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, yesterday morning, an interesting paper on "Limitations of Charity in Dealing With the Unemployed" was read by Mr. Porter R. Lee, secretary of the Charity Organization Society of Buffalo. Many prominent church and charity workers of Richmond were present, the hall being filled to its capacity. In the discussion which followed the formal paper, and which was opened by Miss Byington, of Pittsburgh, there was reference to a considerable change in industrial conditions during the past twelve months, a much larger number of people being out of work than in former years, with a correspondingly heavier demand on the resources of the charity organizations. In many cities the dictum of the organized charities that an able-bodied man must work has been almost impossible of enforcement, when there was no work to be obtained, and to prevent actual starvation and suffering, the bars have been lowered.

**The Unemployed.**  
The subject at some length, presenting estimates as to the number of the unemployed. He continued:

"Without attempting to present any accurate figures, it is still possible to indicate the extent of the unemployed last winter. The New York State Department of Labor reported 22,627 union workmen unemployed on December 31, 1907, which was 3.2 per cent. of the total union membership reporting. Later figures, however, showed that the number of unemployed was 30 per cent. of the total union membership reporting. The figures for the unemployed in various cities are as follows: Cincinnati, 75 per cent.; Cleveland, 100 per cent.; Minneapolis, 30 per cent.; Newark, 221 per cent.; New York, 50 per cent.; Philadelphia, 247 per cent.; Providence, 33 per cent.; St. Louis, 43 per cent.; St. Paul, 50 per cent.; Springfield, 68 per cent."

"At the outset we are faced with the impossibility of reaching causes. The triumph of modern philanthropy, its dominant note, as Mr. Deane has said, is 'practical charity' upon the removal of causes, individual and social, as its most important work. The causes of the unusual unemployment of last winter were intricate and difficult to define."

Some of the more important factors affecting the situation were summarized by Frank Julian Werne in a report in the New York Charity Organization Society in January, as follows:

"1. The financial stringency.  
"2. The usual unemployment of labor in winter aggravated by the general check to production, resulting from the shutting down in whole or in part of manufacturing plants.  
"3. The 'order' system of production, which in many cases has supplanted 'stock' production, and tends to make employment more seasonal.  
"4. Overstocking of goods by retailers, due to failure of cool weather last summer to clear their stock of spring goods, retarding production at this season.  
"5. Presidential year.

**Other Difficulties.**

"A second limitation is the difficulty of applying the principles of organized charity in the case of the unemployed. Investigation and adequate relief funds are fundamental. This past winter has required of many societies two and three times the work for which they are normally equipped."

"The function of an able-bodied man is self-support, through labor. Charitable relief is a temporary expedient, and is nothing but a temporary aid in building up physical and moral strength, with which the dependent family may ultimately achieve self-support. After a man is physically and morally fit to care for his family, he cannot safely receive charitable relief."

"Another difficulty was encountered by those who direct this work in the number of people whom it attracts to the city. There is a difference of opinion as to the extent to which the unemployed are not likely to settle off-hand. Many leaders in social work believe direct relief for the able-bodied to be dangerous. Others believe that, as direct relief is, relief given through charity is not dangerous. Underpaid work is more demoralizing."

"A third limitation of charity in dealing with unemployment is the difficulty of reaching families who do not know the way to a relief society, or whose self-respect deters them from applying. The infusion of warm-heartedness into systematic charitable work has not been able to remove entirely the sense of humiliation which accompanies dependence upon charitable relief."

"A fourth limitation is, perhaps, more speculative than real. It is the effect on wages of efforts to re-establish the dependent unemployed in industry, as industrial operations are resumed. In the industrial places, may be questioned whether in fairness a society should not withhold all efforts to secure work for its beneficiaries until after those who have weathered the storm without charitable aid have found work. The latter are undoubtedly entitled to more credit. But the very dependence of the former makes his case the more urgent."

**Charity Has Done Well.**  
"It do not believe that a charitable society does more important work than that of familiarizing the public with social conditions that need a remedy. Only in this way can social workers reach the causes of unemployment. While the past year has shown certain limitations, it has also shown strong, effective work. Largely through the members of this section, the wide and kindly distribution of charity has relieved an immense amount of suffering and prevented more."

"The absence of disorder and the acquiescence of people generally in the suggestions of organized charity are significant. Every appeal for funds, every receipt for a contribution, every curious inquiry, every foolish suggestion, has been an opportunity to show somebody why an industrial depression begins hardest on the poor; why charitable contributions should be increased in exact proportion to a man's decrease in other expenditures; why it is not charity but charity but charity; why support of established agencies means the most effective work; why the interest which this winter's crisis has aroused should be made continuous for the benefit of those with whom dependence is normal. In spite of its limitations, charity has done well."

**Will Meet to Consider Local Party Management**

WARRENTON, Va., May 8.—A mass-meeting of the Democratic voters at Remington Precinct has been called for Saturday, May 16th, to give expression to the present party management in the county, alleging that as at present constituted, it does not represent the wishes of the voters. Only a few who wish to further perpetuate their hold on the party for their own selfish designs, which are contrary to the principles of Democracy. The call is signed by N. V. Hedinger, J. H. Culp, J. E. Sheppard, W. R. Hume, Hugh Hamilton, Jr., C. H. Williamson, R. C. Bowen and C. T. Embrey.

"You must do one of three things—